

Cross Cultural Solution (CCS) – Dhramsala, India

Service Learning and Community Serving

Experience Description

I worked with Cross Cultural Solution to provide education supports for kids from a very impoverished community in Dhramsala, India. Those kids are with their parents who are migrant laborers from Rajasthan which is another state in India. They usually come and spend half of their year time in Dhramsala. There they live under appalling conditions without neither actual living area provided by government nor any needed facilities. I lived in Dhramsala for three weeks in the CCS Home-Base with staff members and fellow volunteers. I specifically worked with the kids age from 3-5 years old, teaching them basic English and math knowledge.



What I Learnt

I was consistently learning throughout my service trip, which was not only restricted to when I was doing my service work with the kids but rather I was receiving “lectures” every moment from the kindness of all the people around me and their culture and spirits. I learnt what it is truly like to work for a nonprofit and further as an international volunteer. The work was much harder and more challenging than what I assumed before, but it was also much more meaningful and helpful than what I had ever imagined.

I understood the core principle of service work which is to work “with” your receivers but not “for” them. I learnt that the only way I can truly achieve a meaningful and effective service outcome is to make real caring connections with my receivers by first understanding their social and cultural backgrounds. The program CCS organized helped me by providing us volunteers with plentiful cultural learning activities, such as: Hindi language lessons, cooking lessons, temple visits, Tibetan museum visits, and several guest speeches and discussions with specialists from Indian NGO feminist to Tibetan Lama, on topics from Indian women and societal issues to politics, from colonization history to globalization, from human happiness to world peace. What I learnt is not limited to knowledge and experience—though they are already invaluable enough—something even more profound that I learnt is the way of communicating with others, with the outside world, through hearts than words.

My Transformations

Again, the most invaluable transformation happened on me was that this service trip opened up my mind and heart one more step forward toward the outside world, toward the connections with people that I have always been looking for. I have always been a introverted person, living in my closed world but have always been hoping to have sincere connections with others and to contribute something positive to this world. I have always been looking forward to working for a

nonprofit as my career for international development, but I had never gotten the chance to step out of my comfort zone and to make it happen. Now I am glad that I finally made up my mind and went for the things that I truly believed and valued. It was all of the love and care that I gave to and received from throughout my service trip that brought the deepest transformation to me. It confirmed my belief once more that we are all united in this world and we have the ability to make something miracle happen—started from caring for and helping others through our heart. For my academic and professional goals, it was my start toward international sustainability development by getting into touch with the people in India who represent those people who need the most help in this present world.

Favorite Parts

Everything above and everyone along the road.

